

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 190435Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3811

INFO COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

COMIPAC HONOLULU IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SAIGON 3095

EXDIS

MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM DANANG 252 SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON
MARCH 18 BEING REPEATED TO YOU, QUOTE:

S E C R E T DANANG 0252

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NOFORN

EMBASSY FOR POL/MIL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MIL, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITREP - MARCH 18

1. SUMMARY: MOST SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIVITY DURING REPORT
PERIOD ENDING 1200 MARCH 18 TOOK PLACE IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE
AROUND TAM KY (D) WITH ATTACKS ON SUB-SUBSECTORS INCLUDING
AREAS EAST OF HIGHWAY ONE. HIGHWAY ONE IS CLOSED IN NORTHERN
QUANG NGAI PROVINCE. LIGHT FIGHTING CONTINUES SOUTH OF HUE.
EVACUATION OF GVN CADRES, TROOPS AND CIVILIANS HAS BEEN CARRIED
OUT SUCCESSFULLY IN SON HA (D) QUANG NGAI (P). NEIGHBORING
TRA BONG DISTRICT IS SLATED FOR A SIMILAR OPERATION BEGINNING

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TODAY. PRIME MINISTER KHIEM VISITED MR-1 MORNING MARCH 18.

THE 3 RD ARVN AIRBORNE BRIGADE IS LOADING FOR PLANNED MARCH 18
DEPARTURE FROM MR-1. END SUMMARY

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS IN QUANG TRI (P), HOWEVER,
I CORPS HQS REPORTED MARCH 18 THAT APPROXIMATELY 5,000 QUANG TRI
RESIDENTS HAVE FLED TO HASNG DIEN (D), THUA THIEN (P).

IN THUA THIEN (P), ON MARCH 17, GVN RANGERS REOCCUPIED
HILL 224, APPROXIMATELY 25KM SOUTHEAST OF HUE CITY. LIGHT COMBAT
ACTIVITY CONTINUES SOUTH OF BONG MT.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

LIGHT ABF'S AND CONTACTS WERE REPORTED SOUTH OF DANANG IN
QUANG NAM (P).

IN QUANG TIN (P), FIGHTING INTENSIFIED IN THANG BINH (D) AND
WEST AND SOUTHWEST OF TAM KY DISTRICT TOWN. THERE WERE ALSO LIGHT
ABF'S AND GROUND CONTACTS WOUTH OF TAM KY. ON MARCH 16, NVA/VC
OVERRAN BINH HAI (V), IN THANG BINH (D), EAST OF QL-1. ON MARCH 17,
ONE A-37 WAS SHOT DOWN AND DESTROYED NORTHWEST OF THANG BINH (D)
TOWN.

HIGHWAY ONE WAS REPORTED CLOSED MORNING OF MARCH 18 DUE TO
INTENSIFIED COMBAT ACTIVITY BETWEEN BINH SON (D) IN QUANG NGAI (P)
AND CHU LAI (C) IN QUANG TIN (P). THREE PF PLTS AND TWO INFANTRY
COMPANIES ARE REPORTED HAVING LOST RADIO CONTACT IN COMBAT ACTIVITY
IN BINH SON AND SON TINH (D).

4. MR-1/I CORPS COMMANDER LT. GEN. NGO QUANG TRUONG TOLD ACTING
PRINCIPAL OFFICER MARCH 17 THAT THE AIR EVACUATION OF GVN CADRE,
CIVILIANS AND TROOPS FROM SON HA DISTRICT OF QUANG NGAI PROVINCE
HAD BEEN COMPLETED LATE AFTERNOON OF MARCH 18. TRUONG SAID THAT
THE 2-DAY OPERATION HAD GONE WELL. APPROXIMATELY 2,500 GVN CADRE,
DEPENDENTS AND ORDINARY CIVILIANS HAD LEFT THE REMOTE MOUNTAIN
DISTRICT CAPITAL. AN ADDITIONAL APPROXIMATELY 300 TROOPS FROM
THE 68TH RANGER BATTALION ALSO WERE SUCCESSFULLY EVACUATED. TRUONG
SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE QUANG NGAI PROVINCE CHIEF THAT ALL
CIVILIANS WHO WISHED TO LEAVE HAD BEEN REMOVED. THE EVACUEES ARE
IN QUANG NGAI. TRUONG HOPES TO MOVE THEM SOUTH WITH DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER PHAN QUANG DAN'S ASSISTANCE, BUT IS UNCERTAIN HE WILL GET
ALL OF THE HELP HE FEELS HE NEEDS IN THIS REGARD.

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5. TRUONG SAID THAT THE EVACUATION BY ROAD OF TRA BONG DISTRICT
CAPITAL WOULD BEGIN MARCH 18. ONE BATTALION OF THE 2ND INFANTRY
DIVISION IS KEEPING THE ROAD FROM TRA BONG TO HIGHWAY ONE OPEN.

6. AT GENERAL GRUONG'S URGING, PRIME MINISTER TRAN THIEN KIEM
CAME TO DANANG MARCH 18 TO DISCUSS AID TO THE CIVILIAN
POPULATION OF MR-1, INCLUDING POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF LARGE

NUMBERS OUT OF THE MILITARY REGION.

7. CONGEN PROVINCE OFFICE DIRECTOR HUE REPORTS ON MARCH 17 THAT THE 25,000 TEMPORARILY DISPLACED THUA THIEN WAR VICTIMS IN HUE HAVE RETURNED HOME BUT THAT AN AS YET UNKNOWN NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL QUANG TRI PEOPLE WERE LEAVING THEIR HOMES FOR HUE. THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT MAKES IT UNLIKELY THAT THE 80,000 QUANG TRI PEOPLE ALREADY IN HUE WILL LSTART RETURNING HOME AS HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

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